

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 /048 W

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R 081445Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6790

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

SECDEF WASHDC

DA WASHDC

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

CDR RAGCEN WASHDC //DAAG-IS//

OASD(ISA) WASHDC

USMLM BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 1089

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, AEAGC-COC & AEAUPE-AMD-AP

TAGCEN FOR DAAG-IS

DA FOR DAMO AND DAMO-IAP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AKB, GE, GW, MILL, OTRA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED U.S. MILITARY SHOOTING TEAM VISIT TO GDR

REF: (A) MSG FM DA TAGO-TAGCEN WASHDC//DAAG-IS//201630Z APR 78

SENT USDAO BONN, (B) MSG FM TAGCEN WASHDC//DAAG IS//251815Z

APR 78, (C) 77 BERLIN 7553 DTG 291245Z SEP 77 (NOTAL), (D) 77

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011545Z MAY 78

SUMMARY: WITH A WATCHFUL EYE ON THE ALLIED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR
BERLIN, WE REQUEST DEPT LOOK CAREFULLY AT PRECISE FORMULATIONS
OF PROPOSED VISIT TO GDR BY U.S. ARMY SHOOTING TEAM. ALSO, WE
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THINK BONN GROUP SHOULD CONSIDER IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. MILITARY
LIAISON MISSION, BRITISH AND FRENCH INTERESTS, FRG VIEWS, AND
EMBASSY BERLIN'S COMMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. WE ARE RECEIVING PIECEMEAL INFORMATION ABOUT A POSSIBLE
VISIT OF THE U.S. ARMY SHOOTING TEAM TO THE GDR WHERE IT IS
PROPOSED THAT IT REPRESENT THE U.S. IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION.

WE UNDERSTAND DA CONSIDERS VISIT OFFICIAL.

2. REF A IS A "COUNTRY CLEARANCE REQUEST MESSAGE" SENT TO SEVERAL DAOS INCLUDING BONN AS WELL AS "AMEMBASSY EAST BERLIN." REF A NOTES THAT U.S. SHOOTING TEAMS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN MATCHES "BY THE SHOOTING FEDERATION OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDING GDR." REF B, SENT U.S. MISSION BERLIN FOR ACTION, IS LESS PRECISE, BUT IT DOES STATE "AWAITING WRITTEN OFFICIAL INVITE FROM SHOOTING FED OF BERLIN FOR U.S. TEAMS PART IN COMPETITIVE SHOOTING GAMES." (SIC) MESSAGE IS APPARENTLY COORDINATED WITH DEPARTMENT, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS TRIP HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF EUR/CE. AT EMBASSY BERLIN REQUEST WE ARE OFFERING COMMENTS.

3. MATCH IN GDR INVOLVING U.S. SHOOTING TEAM TAKES PLACE MAY 24-29 AT SUHL IN SOUTHWESTERN PART OF COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO REF A, ALL BUT ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. ARMY SHOOTING TEAM ARE MILITARY PERSONNEL, THE OTHER IS A USG EMPLOYEE.

4. AS NOTED REF E, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN TERMS OF OUR EXISTING TRAVEL REGULATIONS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL TO TRAVEL TO THE SITE OF THIS MATCH IN WAYS WHICH WOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE THE SPECIAL BERLIN ACCESS REGIME.

5. BEFORE VISIT IS APPROVED, WE THINK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED:
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A. IF "SHOOTING FED OF BERLIN" DESCRIBED REF B IS GDR ENTITY, THERE MIGHT BE AN INCONSISTENCY IN AN ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION BY OFFICIAL U.S. GROUP; TO DO SO MIGHT APPEAR INCOMPATIBLE WITH ALLIED RESPONSIBILITIES IN BERLIN AS A WHOLE, THAT IS, IN ALL FOUR SECTORS.

B. WE NOTE THAT REF A WAS SENT TO USDAO OFFICES IN FOUR OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHICH SHOOTING TEAM WILL BE VISITING, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE DAO WILL FURNISH ESSENTIAL ON-THE-GROUND ASSISTANCE AND BE AVAILABLE TO ESCORT SHOOTING TEAM AND ASSIST TEAM IN UNEXPECTED SITUATIONS, SUCH AS MEDICAL EMERGENCIES, WHICH MAY ARISE. THIS IS A SENSIBLE PRECAUTION. WITH RESPECT TO THE GDR, THE QUESTION OF LOCAL U.S. MILITARY ESCORT IS MORE COMPLICATED. THERE IS, OF COURSE NO DAO ASSIGNED TO EMBASSY BERLIN. SHOULD THE SHOOTING GO TO THE MATCHES AT SUHL, THEY WOULD NOT ONLY BE ENTERING THE GDR BUT ALSO VISITING THE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CINC GROUP SOVIET FORCES IN GERMANY, TO WHOM THE USMLM IS ACCREDITED. IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO INVOLVE THE USMLM AS ESCORT FOR THE SHOOTING TEAM, SINCE THE EVENT IS GDR, NOT SOVIET, SPONSORED. ADDITIONALLY, THE USCOB DOES NOT APPROVE OF USMLM BECOMING INVOLVED IN AN ACTIVITY WHERE GDR

MILITARY PERSONNEL MIGHT ALSO BE PRESENT. THEREFORE, THERE IS
NO U.S. MILITARY ESCORT AVAILABLE.

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OASD(ISA) WASHDC
USMLM BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 1089

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, AEAGC-COC & AEAUPE-AMD-AP
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C. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT THE USG LIBERALIZED ITS
TRAVEL POLICY FOR U.S. MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS IN
THE GDR IN 1975 AFTER THOROUGH CONSULTATION WITH OUR FRENCH
AND BRITISH ALLIES HERE AND IN BONN. WE THINK THE FRENCH AND
BRITISH WOULD EXPECT TO BE CONSULTED ON SUCH A TRIP, JUST
AS WE WOULD EXPECT TO HEAR FROM THEM ABOUT BRITISH OR FRENCH
MILITARY VISITING THE GDR.

D. WE EXPECT THE FRG WOULD HAVE AN INTEREST IN ANY EVENT
IN THE GDR INVOLVING U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE THE
INVITEES OF A GDR ENTITY. IN THIS REGARD IT WOULD SEEM
PERTINENT TO KNOW WHETHER THE BUNDESWEHR HAS ACCEPTED INVITA-
TIONS OF THIS KIND. VISITS SUCH AS THESE TOUCH ON THE
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POLITICALLY SENSITIVE INNER-GERMAN RELATIONSHIP, AN AREA WHERE WE HAVE NOT WANTED TO BE OUT IN FRONT OF THE FRG.

E. THOUGHT SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO THE PRESENCE OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL AT AN EVENT WHERE GDR MILITARY PERSONNEL MAY ALSO BE PARTICIPATING. LAST FALL A U.S. OFFICER ASSIGNED DAO PRAGUE PROPOSED A VISIT TO EAST BERLIN WHICH INCLUDED ATTENDANCE AT A SOCIAL FUNCTION HOSTED BY THE SWEDISH MILITARY ATTACHE. EMBASSY BERLIN OBJECTED TO THE PRESENCE OF THIS OFFICER AT ANY FUNCTION IN BERLIN WHERE GDR MILITARY MIGHT BE PRESENT (REFS C AND D). WHILE MATCHES IN SUHL DO NOT POSE SAME BERLIN-RELATED PROBLEMS, WE THINK EMBASSY BERLIN'S VIEWS ON THIS MATTER ON THE VISIT MIGHT BE PERTINENT.

6. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED VISIT, FOR WHICH WE KNOW NO PRECEDENT, UNTIL THE ABOVE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED. WE SUGGEST THE DEPARTMENT CLARIFY THE PRECISE FORM OF THE INVITATION REFERRED TO IN PARA 5.A. ABOVE. SHOULD THERE BE NO OBJECTIONABLE FEATURES IN THIS INVITATION, IT WOULD THEN SEEM APPROPRIATE FOR THE BONN GROUP TO CONSIDER THE OTHER QUESTIONS POSED IN PARA 5.A.-E.

7. USCOB CONCURS. GEORGE

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